

## Message Text

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21

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, UK

SUBJECT: U.S. CITIZEN DEPORTATION CASES CONTINUE TO  
SIMMER

REF: LONDON 18745

SUMMARY. THE POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THE DECISION TO DEPORT  
FORMER CIA EMPLOYEE AGEE AND U.S. CITIZEN NEWSMAN HOSEN-  
BALL HAVE CONTINUED TO BE AN IRRITANT FOR THE HARASSED  
CALLAGHAN GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. ALTHOUGH PARLIAMENT WAS PROROGUED NOVEMBER 22 (UNTIL  
NOVEMBER 24), GIVING THE GOVERNMENT A BRIEF RESPITE, AND  
THE AGEE/HOSENBALL STORY HAS MOVED OFF THE FRONT PAGES,  
CIVIL LIBERTARIANS AND OTHERS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR PRO-  
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TESTS. AS USUAL, DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY

ATTRACTED CONSIDERABLE MEDIA ATTENTION.

2. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN PARTY TERMS WAS THE REPORTED NOVEMBER 23 DECISION, APPARENTLY UNANIMOUS, OF THE LEFTIST-DOMINATED LABOR PARTY NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NEC) TO PROTEST THE DEPORTATIONS AND TO APPOINT AN AD HOC SUB-COMMITTEE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO HOME SECRETARY REES. THE FINAL SESSION OF THE PROROGUED PARLIAMENT SAW SEVERAL LABOR MP'S, INCLUDING MODERATES, CONTINUING TO HECTOR REES ON THE SUBJECT. ANOTHER LABOR MP, NEIL CARMICHAEL, NOVEMBER 23 WAS ASKED BY HIS CONSTITUENCY PARTY TO CONSIDER WITHDRAWING HIS SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL THE DEPORTATION CASES ARE MOVED TO THE COURTS. CARMICHAEL, ALTHOUGH EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASES, DEMURRED.

3. THE MOST EMBARRASSING INCIDENT, HOWEVER, WAS THE DECISION OF THE PARTY'S CANDIDATE IN THE DECEMBER 2 CAMBRIDGE BY-ELECTION TO WITHDRAW AN INVITATION FOR REES TO MAKE A CAMPAIGN APPEARANCE IN THE CONSTITUENCY. CHARACTERIZING THE DEPORTATIONS AS "A SERIOUS ISSUE OF CIVIL LIBERTIES", LABOR CANDIDATE MARTIN SMITH INVITED FORMER CABINET MINISTER (AND LEFT-WINGER) BARBARA CASTLE TO REPLACE REES AS THE PRINCIPAL SPEAKER AT A DECEMBER 1 RALLY. THE CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE, WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO HOLD THE "SAFE" TORY SEAT FOR HIS PARTY, SOUGHT TO EXPLOIT LABOR'S INTERNAL DIFFERENCES ON THIS ISSUE. (AGEE RESIDES IN CAMBRIDGE.)

4. COMMENT. WHILE NONE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS REPRESENTS A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE GOVERNMENT, THEY DO REVEAL DISQUIET WITHIN THE LABOR PARTY OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE DEPORTATIONS. THEY PROVIDE JUST ONE MORE IRRITANT IN CALLAGHAN'S CURRENTLY PRICKLY RELATIONS WITH THE PARTY, AND ONE WHICH HE COULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE LONDON STRINGER FOR THE AMERICAN JOURNAL THE NEW REPUBLIC IS WRITING AN EDITORIAL ON THE QUESTION.

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